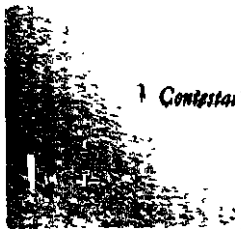
died. After the sermon, he, too, heard the rumour, and rushed to her cell. It was so full of friars and women that he could hardly enter, and they told him she had been dead some hours before. She gradually came to life again in his presence, but for days could do nothing but weep, and bewail the sad fate of her soul that, having beheld with the Angels the face of her Creator, was sent down again to her carnal imprisonment. To the end, Catherine believed she had been really and truly dead, nor could she ever speak of this vision without tears. " Will you not have pity, father," she said to Fra Raimondo, " upon a soul that had been freed from the dark prison, and, after having seen a most blessed light, was again shut up in her former darkness ? I am that wretched creature to whom this befell, for so did the divine Providence dispose because of my sins." [1] Nevertheless, this vision was the prelude to her public life—the mystical signification of her great and wonderful vocation.



Henceforth, Catherine's work was done openly in the eyes of the world, though for a while she did not, save in spirit, leave the territories of the Sienese Republic. A number of conversions marked the beginning of her public ministry. Andrea di Naddino Bellanti, a notorious sinner and blasphemer, struck down by illness in the flower of his manhood, was moved by her prayers to repentance and an edifying end. Francesco Saracini, the father-in-law of Alessa, a fierce and irreligious old noble of eighty years, at her bidding made peace with the enemy whom he hated to death, and became a model of simple-hearted devotion for the few months of life that remained to him. Jacomo Tolomei, the furious son of Francesco and Rabe Tolomei, (Cuomo assai maraviglioso e molto terribile," already twice a homicide and the terror of all the city, not only meekly submitted to his sisters, Ghinoccia and Francesca, taking the veil, but confessed his own sins to Fra Bartolommeo, and " was changed from wolf to lamb, from lion to watch-dog." A younger brother of his, Matteo Tolomei, became one of Catherine's spiritual household and entered the Dominican order.

*Fr. Bartkohmaei,* coll. 1332-1333 ; *Legenda,* II. vi. **21** (§ 213),